

June 29, 1961

Re: CIA

Dear Clai:

Herewith I am returning the draft memorandum you gave me last night.

I was quite interested in reading this draft. The statement on the first page of the memorandum that CIA "has pulled together under one roof most of the intelligence collecting agencies of the government and has brought a real sense of professionalism to our efforts in the direction of intelligence collection and collation" gave me some pause. It is my understanding that the intelligence collecting activities of at least the Army, Navy, Air Force and State Department are still carried on by those agencies more or less independently of CIA. So far as the "collation" of intelligence is concerned, if that means the coordination of intelligence estimates, it is subject to the comments which form the basis of the suggestion I made in our conference yesterday afternoon. I was interested to note that you made substantially the same point at page 3 of your memorandum.

I still feel that from the point of view of the most effective use of intelligence collected by all of the agencies engaged in that activity, the separation of CIA's collection and operations functions from its coordination of intelligence function and the lodging of the latter in a completely separate and independent unit is essential. The more I consider it the more appealing is the thought that such a unit might appropriately be made a part of the Executive Office of the President.

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E.H. Correa
From the standpoint of economy and agencies in intelligence operations, there is another function of CIA which ought to be taken into account. This is the role of CIA as the coordinator of the collection of intelligence by all of the agencies of the government that engage in that activity. I know that it has been contemplated in the past that CIA should perform such a function, but I do not know to what extent it is effectively doing so today. It seems obvious that this is an area wherein effective coordination ought to be able to result in the elimination of duplication of activities resulting in waste. Opposed, of course, is the amour-propre of each of the agencies and the strong feeling stemming from it that each agency ought to do for itself the collection of such intelligence as each deems essential to its own operations. On the other hand, it seems obvious that such a basic and important source of intelligence as research and analysis need not and should not be the subject of duplicative efforts by a number of different agencies.

Although I have not refreshed my recollection by examining our report recently, I believe that the committee of which I was a member some years ago made recommendations along these lines. Whether and to what extent they have been carried out, I have no idea. I mention this last point because I believe it is a point that anyone interested himself in the subject would want to take into account and it did not enter into our discussion yesterday.

I enjoyed our discussion very much. Needless to say, if I can be of any assistance to you in this matter, I will be more than happy to do all I can.

All the best.

Sincerely,

Mathias F. Correa

Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senator
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure]